

Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents <leap.news@gmail.com>**Loudoun Education Alliance for Parents**

73 messages

Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents <leap.news@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 12:05 PM

To: eric.williams@lcps.orgCc: Michael Richards <Michael.Richards@lcps.org>, wayde.byard@lcps.org, lcsb@lcps.org, Phyllis.Randall@loudoun.gov, jeff.morse@lcps.org, bos@loudoun.gov, rennea.butler@outlook.com, Jasmin Moser <jmoser@employ-r.com>, Tonya Mead <tonya@ishareknowledge.com>, Coryl Abrams <corylsabrams@gmail.com>, Michele Leffler <mherseyleffler@gmail.com>, Stephanie Eskins Gleason <eskins@hotmail.com>

Dear Superintendent Williams,

I hope you are well and warm on this icy day. As you know, the Loudoun Education Alliance for Parents began in 1989 to provide an active forum for local parent groups, students, teachers, administrators, and the school board to discuss and share innovative educational ideas and opportunities. Thank you for your participation in many of our meetings. We appreciate the members of the Loudoun County School Board and the Board of Supervisors for their involvement as well. We all share an interest in creating educational excellence that will facilitate the future to which our county communities aspire.

I think you are aware that on December 28, 2017, LEAP Alliance officers received a letter from Mr. Byard, the LCPS/LEAP liaison, indicating that LCPS could not support the LEAP monthly program scheduled for January 10, 2018 at the LCPS Administration Building based on a number of concerns. Of course, we took this letter very seriously and responded by indicating our desire to learn specifics about these issues so we could address them.

Vague statements in the LCPS letter have resulted in speculation and tension. Every person on the executive committee is under suspicion of not actually being eligible to serve. Just as a student cannot learn without knowledge and specific feedback on the behaviors they can change, the parent volunteers of the LEAP Alliance cannot meet expectations that are confusing and seem to contradict the bylaws on which our organization is founded. Our bylaws were created in 1989 when LCPS was a much smaller school system with no modern meeting technologies such as the internet and conference calls, so updating the bylaws may be important for LEAP to achieve its mission as a forum for the interactive exchange of ideas and innovation. (A future LEAP business meeting will be dedicated to this topic. An expert from the National Association of Parliamentarians has been consulted about teaching us how our bylaws can be updated, if desired by our membership.)

Some people are under the impression that LCPS will not wait for us to follow the processes in our bylaws. Based on the December 28 letter we received, they worry that LCPS demands immediate compliance with a new LCPS parent group guide governing SEAC, MSAAC and the LEAP Alliance. During our January 10, 2018 executive committee meeting, only one member of the committee was familiar with the LCPS guide and no one knew when your administration expected us to change our bylaws in order to comply with the guide; Mr. Byard's letter indicated only that we were already uncompliant.

As the Superintendent, I respectfully ask you to ensure that we receive specifics about LCPS concerns and expectations and provide us the time necessary to address them through the processes in our bylaws. Without this information and process, LEAP cannot continue to serve effectively as an organizational alliance that hosts programs to bring the knowledge, perspectives, and resources of a diverse community together in our mutual pursuit of educational excellence.

Thank you,

Stephanie Eskins-Gleason

President, LEAP Alliance and Sterling delegate for Dominion High School

**mherseyleffler** <mherseyleffler@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 1:22 PM

To: Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents <leap.news@gmail.com>, eric.williams@lcps.orgCc: Michael Richards <Michael.Richards@lcps.org>, wayde.byard@lcps.org, lcsb@lcps.org, Phyllis.Randall@loudoun.gov, jeff.morse@lcps.org, bos@loudoun.gov, rennea.butler@outlook.com, Jasmin Moser <jmoser@employ-r.com>, Tonya Mead <tonya@ishareknowledge.com>, Coryl Abrams <corylsabrams@gmail.com>, Stephanie Eskins Gleason <eskins@hotmail.com>

To everyone,

I apologize for the confusion of this email. The executive board voted and Ms. Tonya Meade is our new LEAP President. The LCPS and LEAP website already show this.

Also, the LEAP communications have not yet been updated, so this email is sent from our former email. I will make sure to update the website accordingly with our updated information.

Wayde and Maura have been exceptional in providing guidance during our much needed restructuring and we are very grateful for their assistance with their decade plus expertise of working with LEAP. It had been overdue.

Also, on behalf of the LEAP delegates we apologize for the newspaper articles that reflected LEAP to not be supportive of the school system and school administrators. Our LEAP media is supposed to go to Wayde and we understand that surprise articles about LCPS and LEAP were making LCPS staff uncomfortable. It made me uncomfortable as well.

Everything in Wayde's December 28 email is accurate and we truly value him as our LEAP and LCPS Liaison. Thank you Wayde for helping things moving forward. And thank you Dr. Williams for providing very helpful advisors and letting us learn more about how vital a positive alliance with parents and LCPS.

LEAP looks forward to a positive step forward with Tonya as our new leader. She is exceptionally well qualified and is an amazing person.

Today is my birthday and my mother and I are out getting a birthday gift. I hope you all have a wonderful day.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Let your smile change the world, don't let the world change your smile.

[Quoted text hidden]

Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents <leap.news@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 4:40 PM

To: leap.executivecommittee@gmail.com

Dear LEAP delegates, alliance partners, and parents,

It is with regret that I confirm that the Loudoun Executive Alliance for Parents is having difficulties performing effectively amid confusion regarding whether any of our executive committee members are eligible to serve and how many delegates we have that are eligible to vote. There have been questions about the legitimacy of information posted on our website, missing meeting minutes, missing delegate registration forms, missing dues. There are perceived conflicts with a new LCPS parent handbook, and there is some evidence that an understanding of our bylaws - and the parliamentary procedures we are bound to follow unless our bylaws are amended - is limited. To see a copy of our bylaws and other information we began moving from our web site to a public wiki, please visit: <https://loudouneducationalliance.wikispaces.com>

In a nutshell, our meetings are supposed to be public. Executive committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and business meetings with programs are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Additional meetings can be called if notice is given to the membership. Some are under the impression that the bylaws allow some people to meet without notifying the entire executive committee and general membership, and that in these meetings they can vote out other members and delegates, extend the deadlines for registration or collection of dues for some, and bypass other portions of the bylaws that call for delegates to make motions and vote.

I believe that LEAP, which was founded in 1989, can be a much more relevant partner in achieving educational excellence within our communities if the bylaws are reviewed and updated. LEAP officers and delegates are volunteers who want to work collaboratively with the members of our alliance to create an active forum for the exchange of knowledge and innovation, and I think the organization's mission is just as relevant today now that we have transformed from a small community to a large one. In 2017, we have new technologies we can use to reduce barriers that exist to attending meetings and exchanging information. A group of people interested in bringing the bylaws into this century can form a bylaws committee and make recommendations to make LEAP more effective, if this is something our community wants. I have heard from organizations - inside and outside of the county - that are willing to contribute time, resources, volunteers and technology to help our students receive a world class education and provide services to our families that are not currently available within the county. To benefit from these opportunities, we need to become aware of them and allow delegates to make motions to evaluate them and vote on them. I don't know how many others in our community share my belief.

I think LEAP's focus for the remainder of the school year could be on confirming how our bylaws require us to function, openly settling the issues of who is and isn't eligible to serve - as an officer, committee member or delegate - and then considering if updates to LEAP bylaws can help LEAP achieve its mission. This focus could help transform beyond providing informational programs that are scheduled for the next couple of months to a group of delegates from each school who share knowledge and resources across schools and make informed, collaborative recommendations to the LCPS administration and the school board. Imagine what our delegates and the new set of officers elected at our May 2017 annual meeting could accomplish if that happened.

Until each executive committee member and delegate has had an opportunity to establish their membership status, I am not chairing LEAP meetings as president. I don't think it is clear who is eligible to chair the meetings in my place, and I hope this can be resolved quickly and openly. The future of this organization is in the hands of the membership and the community. I look forward to learning how you decide to move forward and am ready to resume chairing meetings if and when the outstanding questions are answered (and if I'm eligible to serve).

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with LEAP over the years!

Stephanie

Providing an active forum for discussing the latest educational plans, ideas, and issues among parent groups, students, teachers, administrators, and the Loudoun County school board